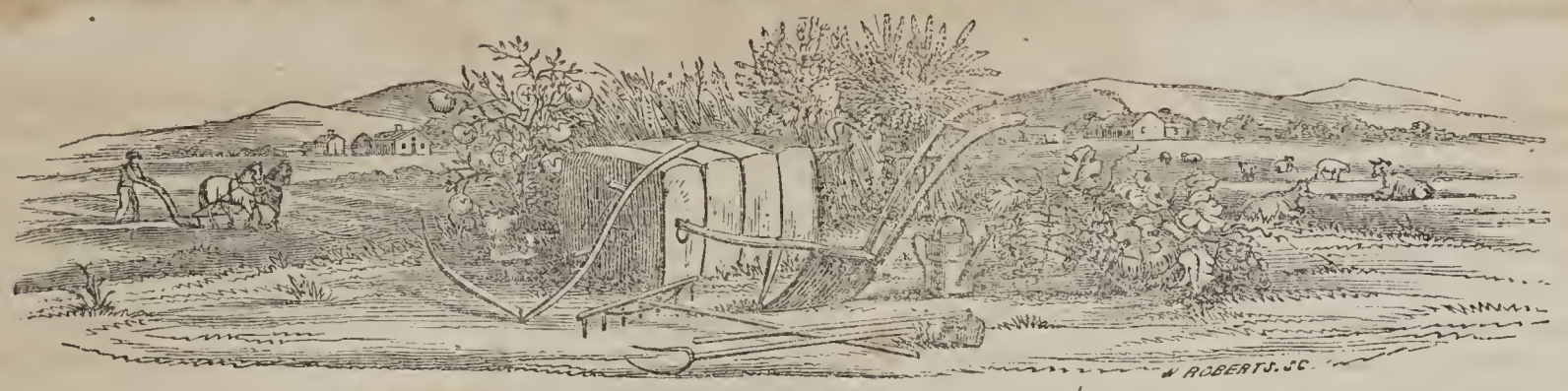

FARMER AND PLANTER.

DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE, MECHANICS, DOMESTIC AND RURAL ECONOMY.

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Address.

BY WILLIAM S. KING, MANTON, R. I.

(Continued from page 68.)

As this is a Farmers' Festival, and a great proportion of the thousands before me are farmers, I shall not enter further upon the wide field of man's prejudices; but confine myself to a description of the prejudices of farmers. And if, as we have seen, all classes of men, and all nations have prejudices, what wonder is it that the farmer has prejudices! In thus declaring, I simply pronounce him to be a man, and not unlike other men.

The first of these prejudices, that now occurs to me, is that against, what many of you are pleased to term in scorn, Book Farming. It would be exceedingly amusing, were it not for the painful reflections that, at the same time, occur to one to mark the look and tone and manner of ineffable disgust, with which one of our old-time farmers mentions a new-light cultivator, who subscribes to agricultural papers that inculcate science, and is lisly enough to search in printed books for information to direct his labors. "The field the field," says old father stand-still, "is the school for me; the plow tail is the desk I want, and nature's great page the only book that I peruse."

What is called *Book-farming*, is simply the appropriation of the experience of other farmers; which they, or others for them, have thought proper to print. If a farmer, known to you to be a good farmer and a truth telling man, tells you that by a system of management, differing somewhat from yours, he has nearly doubled his crops, you listen with widely-opened ears; you store in memory every particular of his proceeding, and you determine to pursue another year, the plan that has so well answered the purposes of your neighbor. But, if this very man, desirous of benefitting a whole community by his experience, and having too much business at home to go abroad repeating his success from man to man, by word of mouth, shall write out his experiment, and cause it to be printed in a book, or periodical, that moment it becomes a part of book-farming, and ceases to have virture, in the eyes of many. There is a magic in type, it would seem, that converts what is wisdom when spoken, into folly when printed.

But the species of book-farming that above all others call into play the prejudices of working farmers, is the printed advice of men, who work more with their brains than with their hands;—of men, who observe the operations of others and carry into practice, by the hands of hired help, what commends itself to their judgment, by its fruits;—of men, who regard agriculture as a science.

What is this but prejudice against mind; —against mind, as applied to agriculture? This prejudice is unreasonable, not to say absurd. It declares that God has given to the farmer reason; but not that he may apply it, as other men do, to the advancement of their calling; so that every year shall witness improvements in mechanics, or other sciences; not that by its exercise he shall be a better farmer, ten years hence, than he was ten years ago, or than his grand-father was before him; for the thorough-going old-fashioned farmer scouts the idea of improvement; he is contented to tread in the tracks of his progenitors, neither asking nor caring whether or not there is any safer and better path.

Now, I am prepared to say,—and, I think, to prove, that every other branch of industry, and every occupation of man, has advanced towards perfection just in proportion as mind has been brought to bear upon it; and there can no reason be given why agriculture should be an exception.

War, as a serious occupation of man, is the only one that contests antiquity with agriculture. As soon after the fall, as there were human beings enough to constitute a respectable fight, we had war. And the history of every nation, that has come down to us through the mists of tradition, or appears on the chronicler's page, is little less than a narrative of their broils and contentions. For many centuries, brute strength was the only force applied to attain victory; hence the heroes of ancient history are all prodigies of muscular power, as well as prowess. But, by and by, the mighty interests at stake, brought mind into the conflict, and mere muscular force ceased to be pre-eminently esteemed; for the gigantic strength of an Ajax become very weakness before the little pellet of lead that mind had prepared and propelled. In the days of the Trojan war the puny person of Napoleon Bonaparte would have constrasted strangely with the hugh bulks of the contesting

demi-gods; but it requires little wisdom to assure us that with a battallion, such as earned for him, by their rolling discharges at *Aboukir*, the name of *King of Fire*; or with a battery, such as swept the ensanguined plain of *Borodino*, the Grecian heroes would soon have been hurried in an unseemly flight to a disorderly disembarkation; or the walls of Troy been battered about the ears of its defenders in a day.

The "consumation devoutly desired" in battle, is to slay, maim, and capture as many of the opposing host as possible; and the records of blood will testify that ten thousand can now be murdered, mutilated or imprisoned, with greater ease than a score were killed of yore. Mind has worked the change; and now the fate of armies is decided, not by the actual shock of arms, but by the skill of most accomplished chess-players on the bloody board. Our Mexican war has given us a terrible fame, as a martial people, and we are justly proud of the prowess of our troops; yet all previous history will bear me out in the assertion, that *a change of generals would have changed the tide of success*. The Austrians, who had conquered the French in Italy and threatened them with death by the sword or by starvation, were in turn chased, like sheep, over the mountains, as soon as one mind was added to the forces of the French.

It is difficult to evade the conclusion, that the mind of one man may be equal to the combined force of toiling thousands; yet farmers are found, who, in practice, deny that the application of intellect could at all advance their interests.

Let us look at commerce,—commerce is the carrier of agriculture, but *mind* has been brought to bear upon its operations; and in place of unsafe craft, that once "crept cautiously from head-land to head-land," the mighty steams ip is now employed to draw together continen's; and there is not a sea, bowever remote, that is not plowed by an American keel; nor a wind, whether loaded with sleet at the pole or warmed by the sun's hot breath at the equator, that does not fill an American sail and unfold her glorious stars and stripes.

Manufactures are but the maid-servants of Agriculture, toiling and spinning in her halls; *mind* has offered her aid; and the old hand looms are garretted, to make room for machinery, that seems to possess an almost diabolical intellingence—a miraculous power.

Our mechanics have given to the farmer the plow and the reaper, the drill and the cultivator, the hay-cutter and the grain-thresher, the fanning-mill and all the other improvements in agricultural implements, of which farmers sometimes make boast. And they have been able to do these things by an *application of mind* to their occupation;—by the study of books, as containing the experience of the more eminent mechanics;—by earnest thought.

(To be continued.)

For the Farmer and Planter.

Eli Whitney's Cotton Gin.

Messrs. Editors:—I clip the following from the *Savannah Courier*, which may be interesting to some of your readers.—This was the first saw cotton gin ever built. The first culture of sea-island cotton in the United States was in Georgia, in the year 1786; and perhaps the first culture of the green-seed or upland cotton in America was made in Georgia also, and it would be but just that there should be something done by the cotton growing states, and particularly by Georgia, that would be honorable memento to the names and memory of Mrs. Greene and Mr. Whitney; for now quite a large portion of the human family, inhabitants of this world is clothed in cotton produced in America, and cleaned from the seed by cotton gins made similar to the one made by Eli Whitney, at the house and residence of Mrs. Greene, in the state of Georgia.

This discovery is an event that should be remembered by man. J. M. S.

Hightower, Ga., April 14, 1853.

"Mr. Whitney constructed his first cotton gin in Chatham county, on the plantation formerly belonging to Gen. Nathaniel Greene. In the January No. of Silliman's Journal of 1832, there is an interesting memoir of Whitney, to which we are indebted for the following facts:

Mr. Whitney, on his way to Georgia, was so fortunate as to have the company of Mrs. Greene, who, with her family, was returning to Savannah after spending the summer at the North.

At that time it was deemed unsafe to travel through our country without having had the small pox, and accordingly Mr. Whitney prepared himself for the excursion by being innoculated in New York. As soon as he was sufficiently recovered, the party set sail for Savannah. As his health was not firmly established, Mrs. Greene invited him to go with the family to her residence, at Mulberry Grove, near Savannah, and remain until he recruited.

The invitation was accepted, but lest he should not have lost all power of communicating that dreadful disease, Mrs. Greene had white flags, the meaning of which was well understood, hoisted at the landing and at all the avenues leading to her house.

As a requital for the hospitality, Whitney procured the virus, and innoculated all the servants of the household, more than fifty in number, and carried them safely through the disorder.

At the time Whitney was the guest of Mrs. Greene, she was engaged in a piece of embroidery, in which she employed a peculiar kind of frame, called a *tambour*.—She complained that it was badly constructed, and that it tore the delicate threads of her work.

Mr. Whitney set himself to work, and produced a tambour frame, made on a plan entirely new, which he presented to her.

Not long afterwards a party of gentlemen from Augusta and the upper country, consisting chiefly of officers who had served under General Green, called at Mulberry grove to pay their respects to Mrs. Greene. In the course of conversation, upon the state of agriculture, profound regret was expressed that there were no means of cleaning the green seed cotton, or separating it from its seed, since all the lands which were suitable for rice, would yield large crops of cotton, and that until inginuity could devise some machine, it was in vain to think of raising cotton for market.

While the company was engaged in this conversation, Mrs. Greene said, "Gentlemen, apply to my young friend Mr. Whitney, he can make anything." Upon which she conducted them into an adjoining room and showed them the tambour frame, and a number of toys which Whitney had made or repaired for the children.

She then introduced the gentlemen to Whitney himself, extolling his genius.—when they named the subject, he replied that "he had never seen cotton or cotton seed in his life."

This interview gave a new turn to Whtiney's views. It being out of season for cotton in the seed, he went to Savannah and searched among the warehouses and boats, until he found a small parcel of it.

This he carried home and communicated his intentions to Mr. Greene, who warmly encouraged him, and assigned him a room in the basement of the house

where he went to work with such rude materials and instruments, as a Georgia plantation afforded.

With these resources, however, he constructed the necessary tools. Mrs. Greene and a Mr. Miller were the only persons admitted to his work shop.

Upon the approach of winter, the machine was so nearly completed as to leave no doubt of its success.

Mrs. Greene invited to her house, gentlemen from different parts of the state, and on the first day after they had assembled, she conducted them to a temporary building, which had been erected for the machine, and there they saw, with astonishment and delight, that more cotton could be separated from the seed in one day, by the labor of a single hand, than could be done in the usual way in the space of many months.

The first cotton gin made by Whitney, we are informed, is in possession of the Rev. Benjamin Burroughs, of White Bluff, near Savannah."

To Restore Organic Matter to a Soil.

All good soils are made up of a mixture of organic and inorganic matter.—Organic matter is of animal or vegetable origin; that is, it is produced by animals or vegetables. That produced by vegetables consists of carbon, oxygen, and hydrogen, and a very small proportion of nitrogen. Organic matter, of animal origin, contains, also, oxygen, carbon, and hydrogen, with a larger proportion of nitrogen, and a very small proportion of sulphur and phosphorus. Now, unless soils contain a fair proportion of organic matter, they cannot be productive. And to its absence is chiefly ascribed the uniform barrenness of sandy or silicious soils. Moreover, the tendency of organic matter is to increase in lands that are "*turned out to rest*," but to diminish in those that are kept in such cultivation as requires the use of the plough, until they at length come below the point essential to fertility, which will be when the organic matter has been all, or chiefly, exhausted.

The farmer may easily decide whether a field is deficient in organic matter.—The plan we copy from the pages of the "Progressive Farmer," of which valuable little work we intend to make frequent use when writing for the farmers' instruction. "He may take a handful of soil from half a dozen places, mix all together, dry it as dry as it can be made in the sun, put it on a white piece of paper and dry it in an oven at a temperature just high enough to brown the paper slightly; then weigh out and put into an iron ladle 100 ounces; heat it to a red heat, and keep it hot till all the black color has disappeared; cool and weigh.—The *organic* matter will have burned away. If it now weighs 99 ounces, his soil contains 1 per cent. of organic matter, if 98, 2 per cent. and so on. A soi should contain certainly as much as 2 per cent.; and it is well if it contain two or three times as much."

If, by experiment or otherwise, it has been discovered that a soil is deficient in organic matter, the next thing is to supply it with such ingredients as will restore the deficiency. This may be done in three ways, at the option of the farmer; and must be done in some way if he would prosperously succeed in his business. In old countries, where agriculture has arrived to the highest known degree of perfection, and where rotation in cropping is strictly practised, the first and most usual method is to lay down the land to grass, and to pasture it for several years, until it has become thickly turfed over. As the grasses, however, are not cultivated in this part of the country, this method cannot be conveniently practised beyond that of simply resting the land, which, it must be admitted, does not altogether answer the end in view.

The second method of restoring organic matter to the soil is, by ploughing in green crops. Clover, where it is cultivated, is chiefly used for this purpose. In land not entirely exhausted, it is plowed very deeply, and sowed with rye or oats, and clover seed. Clover is used for this purpose, chiefly because it is inclined to shoot its roots deeply into the ground, where it takes up such valuable salts as the sub-soil may contain, which furnish the mineral elements that enter into the composition of the plant. Besides, clover, while growing, draws largely from the air for organic matter; and if, when full grown, it be ploughed in, it not only supplies the soil with organic matter taken from the air, but with saline matters drawn from the subsoil.

As clover is not cultivated in Eastern Carolina to such an extent as to enable us to use it, as a restorer to the soil of organic matter, an excellent substitute for it may be found in the southern pea, which is thought by some farmers to be superior even to clover.

The third way of restoring organic matter to a soil is, by putting into it large quantities of manure manufactured *at home*, by the farmer's own hands. By this we mean that compost manure—manure composted of stable manure, and three or four times its bulk of swamp or marsh mud, woods mould, ditch scrapings, &c., &c., is the best restorer of organic matter. And, in land that, by constant cropping, has been deprived of its organic matter, it will not do to rely on any thing else. Nothing else, indeed, but large quantities of vegetable and animal manure will supply the deficiency of organic matter. The ploughing in of green crops and the application of foreign, expensive fertilizers may, and do aid a little in keeping land in a comparative state of productiveness; but great quantities of manure, manufactured from the hog-pen, the stable-yard, and the cow-pen, by the aid of such substances as we have already pointed out, is the only sure reliance of the sensible farmer. Hence, as renovating ingredients, lime and salt are the only commodities that the farmer ought to import; and this he will find out to his loss, if he begin not in time to employ the resources in which his own lands and premises abound.—*New Era*

Oats and Carrots.

Why is it that our farmers do not pay more attention to the cultivation of the carrot? It has been demonstrated again and again that it is a highly nutritious vegetable,—that stock of all kinds, particularly milk cows, do well on it,—that it increases the quantity and quality of the milk, adds to the flesh, and in a given bulk contains much more nutriment, and is therefore, bushel for bushel, worth more than oats. In the transactions of the Worcester (Mass.) Agricultural Society, recently published, we find an estimate, showing the relative value of oats and carrots, from which it appears that the cost of raising an acre of carrots is about $25 more than for an acre of oats. It is estimated that 500 bushels of carrots may be raised on an acre, and 40 bushels of oats. This is the basis of calculation. Now as a matter of *profit* see the result. Calling the oats worth 35 cents per bushel, we realize for the acre $14. Estimating the carrots at half that, or 17½ cents per bushel, we have $87, 50 worth of carrots per acre against $14 worth of oats.

The calculation may possibly be extravagant as to the yield of carrots—but if half that quantity can be raised, (and we have no warrant for fixing so low a figure) there is still no comparison in the relative value of the profit.

Think of this, farmers! Do more,—*try* it, and our world for it you will have no cause to regret the experiment.—*Ohio Farmer*

Manures---No. 12.

Their Uses, History, Modes of Preparation, Comparative Value, Rationale of their Causes of Action, Etc. Etc.

BY PROF. J. J. MAPES.

Fish as Manure.—On many parts of our coasts the kinds of fish of least value are used for manure, and often those of better quality, when taken too plentifully for consumption as food—alewives, moss bunkers, herrings, &c., &c·—while on the coast of England, Scotland &c., they use sprats, pilchards, sticklebacks, &c. Whale blubber is also used when procured at low rates. Fish forms very rich composts, as they contain large quantities of oil. The scales are composed principally of coagulated albumen and a portion of phosphate of lime, while the bones, which are composed of phosphate and carbonate of lime, have their hollow parts filled with oil.

The farmers of Suffolk Co., Long Island, use large quantities of fish as manure, and with very great advantage. Even the poorest lands may be made to produce fair crops, by an application of forty-five bushels per acre, while loamy land in good heart will produce good crops with half that quantity of manure. Some farmers throw the fish into the furrow covering them immediately with the plow, while others mix them with large quantities of earth in compost, where they remain until entire decomposition, before use. If exposed until putrid, the fertilizing properties of fish are rapidly diminished, and much of their more valuable constituents (those of the oil) are lost, passing off in the atmosphere in the forms of carburetted hydrogen, carbonic acid, &c., &c Fish oil is composed of the same ingredients as starch and sugar, and, indeed, as most vegetable products, and only differing in the proportions. Thus train oil, accoring to Dr. Thompson, contains—

Carbon	68.87
Hydrogen	16.10
Oxygen	15.03
	100.00

while sugar, according to Berzelius, contains—

Oxygen	51.47
Carbon	41.48
Hydrogen	6.04
	100.00

Starch from wheat, according to the analys of Gay-Lussac, contains—

Oxygen	49.68
Carbon	43.35
Hydrogen	6.97

The same chemist gives us the result from an analysis of oak wood.

Oxygen	41.79
Carbon	52.53
Hydrogen	5.69
	100.00

Thus it will be seen that fish is an excellent manure, and the constituents are so readily convertible by the influences of air and moisture, that the principle part of them may be availed of for the first year's crop. Where soils contain a fair share of inorganiic constituents, fish may be used with advantage, and in localities where they may be obtained cheaply, farmers should have an analysis made of their soils, and add to their compost the missing inorganic requirements. Thus a soil containing no potash, although heavily manured with fish, would not raise crops of which potash was a necessary eonstituent; but if wood ashes were added to the compost, this deficiency would be supplied, and the resulting crops benefitted.

Dccomposed meadow muck is to be preferred to soil for composting with fish, as the carbon will absorb and retain all the resultant gases arising from the decomposition.

Sprats are used in many parts of England, and highly valued. Johnson says: "The farmers of Essex and Suffolk purchase these fish by thousands of bushels at a time, carrying them in wagons ten or fifteen miles into the inland districts. The following experiments were made by Mr Smith Langley, of Kelveydon."—*Farmers Magazine*, 1840, p. 436.

BARLEY DRESSED WITH VARIOUS MANURES.

MANURE. Quantity and cost per acre.		Quantity of grain per acre. Qrs.	Bushels.	Straw per acre. Ton.	Cwt.	Lbs.
Sprats.						
Fifty bushels per acre, at 9d	£1 17 6	7	1	1	10	8
Labor	2 6					
	£3 0 6					
Saltpetre		6	6	1	5	7
One Cwt. per acre	£1 9 6					
Poiteven's Manure.		6	4½	1	3	2
Twenty bushels	£2 7 6					
Yard Manure.		7	6	1	2	6
Ten loads per acre, at 5s	£2 10 0					
No manure		5	4¼	0	19	0

The above shows clearly that fish manure may be used with good effect on proper soils for barley.

Pilchards.—This fish is about the size of herrings, and more oily, and Davy states that they improve the soil for many years. Johnson says: "Between eight and nine thousand persons, at sea and on shore, are engaged in this fishery, and about thirty thousand hogsheads are annually exported to the West Indies and the Mediterranean."

This fish when salted and slightly damaged, is used in England as manure, and like all other salted fish, is much more valuable than when fresh.

The fat or blubber of the Whale.—This article is highly valuable as a fertilizer, and no doubt could often be had by farmers, if its value was sufficiently understood to induce its being brought to port. Johnson states that it can be bought at the London docks, for one pound ($5) per ton. At double that price it would be a cheap fertilizer in this country, and when mixed with muck or other inorganic matter, it would render large quantities of such material valuable and available. No substance will cause a more rapid decomposition, and its resultant gases, when properly composted, will be all absorbed.

Perhaps no substance for its bulk is more valuable as manure than fish oils; for, unlike other manures, they contain no water, and all their constituents are valuable as fertilizers. Whale oil foot, as it is technically termed by refiners of lamp oils, can occasionally be purchased at very low prices, and five gallons of this material evenly distributed through a half cord of any carbonaceous matter, would render it equal in value to its bulk of stable manure.

Forty gallons of train oil previously composted with 120 bushels screened soil, gave 23 tons 5 cwt. of turnips, while 40 bushels of bone dust, mixed with 80 bushels of burnt earth, produced but 21 tons 18 cwt. From this experiment it may be fairly inferred, that the "*refuse whale oil foot*" of the Nantucket manufacturers *is worth as much per gallon as bone dust per bushel.*

In cotton factories much of the waste is used to wipe dirty oil from the machinery, and this waste, until a late date, was thrown away; it is now used by paper makers, who cleanse it by changing the oil into soap by the use of alkalies, and then make paper of the cotton. The soap water thus made, is valuable as manure, and the *cotton waste*, when it can be procured, is worth more as manure than is usually paid for it by the paper makers.—*Working Farmer.*

From the Soil of the South.

On the Culture of Fruit at The South.

One of the most fatal mistakes committed by those who have engaged in the cultivation of fruits at the south, has been the adoption of the methods prescribed by northern nurserymen. After many years of disappointment in following the direction of the English gardeners and nurserymen, they had to abandon them, and strike out a system of their own better suited to their climate and soil, before much progress was made in this department of horticultute. We at the south in like manner, have been led without reflection into the same error, for there is not a greater difference between the climate and soil of the northern states and England or Belgium, than there is between the northern and southern states; and it is not reasonable that the same *modus operandi* would answer well for the cultivation of plants and trees of both sections of country. What is yet more strange is, that whenever any of the southern nurserymen we have, have written or given directions to those who have purchased from them, it has been but a reiteration of rules laid down at the north, so far as I have seen, until there is, from the frequent failure of many who have attempted raising some kinds of fruit, an opinion prevalent that they cannot be grown here successfully. My object in writing this short article is to endeavor to dissuade this opinion, by prescribing such plans and processes as experience has taught me, to be better adapted to the region of Georgia, and which I hope and believe will prove satisfactory to all who may try it. I shall begin with a few simple rules for the cultivation of the apple, and at another time, if this meets with a favorable reception, take up the other varieties of fruit by turns. In the selection of a site for an orchard, take one that inclines to the north or north-west. Plow and subsoil it well, and stake off for your trees twenty-five feet each way; dig the holes from one foot to eighteen inches deep and three feet in diameter; select trees one or two years old, from a good southern nursery, and plant them in these holes, filling them up with a soil taken from swamp or low ground if convenient—if not, get that composed of decayed leaves, or other vegetable substances, to which should be added a shovelful of ashes or lime. The after culture of the ground is of more consequence to success than the mere planting of the trees. This should be done by always keeping it covered with a green covering of some kind. I prefer and use clover; in sections of country where this does not grow well, I would choose peas. The advice of northern nurserymen to keep the ground clean, or in a hoed crop, will not answer here, as it becomes so heated by our vertical sun as to injure the roots of the trees, and either kill or render them worthless. Mulching has been advised. I say the best mulch is a green crop; nothing else is as good a radiator of heat as this. Keep the ground clean for a few inches around the trunks of the trees, so as to prevent insects from harboring there. Manure and plough the ground once in every three or four years, and I will not hesitate in saying that the choicest apples may be raised from the sea-board to the mountains in Georgia. By the way I should have said that the trees should be trained with low heads, the limbs suffered to put out about four feet from the ground, and should the tree be of upright or tall habit, cut off those branches that shoot up, and compel a latteral growth, as a tree with a low spreading head always bears best, and at the same time shades and protects the trunk and roots from the heat of the sun. It is a good plan to tie a common clapboard against the south-west side of the trunks, for two or three years, or until the top has made growth sufficient to shade them. Where this is neglected, I have known the trunks to become blistered, and the death of the tree be the consequence of the neglect.—In conclusion I will reiterate, keep a growing crop on the ground, that will cover it well, and there is but little doubt but that you will succeed, any where, in raising this delicious fruit. J. Van Buren.

When to Use Lime and Plaster.

Land doctoring, like all other doctoring should be performed with an intelligent reference to the nature of the disease, and the adaptation of the remedy.—Gen. Bierce, of Akron, is a careful observer of natural phenomena, and withal a successful cultivator. He has recently contributed the following valuable suggestions to the Summit Beacon.

The value of lime or plaster, as a manure, depends upon the component parts of the soil to which it is applied. All land has more or less sulphuric acid in it, caused by the decomposition of iron pyrites. The presence of this acid may generally be known by the appearance of the soil, and particularly of the stone.—If there is any iron rust, or *oxide of iron*, in the soil, or in the stone, or on the top of the water that filtrates through the soil, or if the water is hard, it indicates the presence of sulphuric acid.

If land on which grass seed is sown, is "slow to catch," or sod over; or catches in patches, it indicates the presence of sulphuric acid.

If the roots of clover, and herds grass in the spring, stand two or three inches out of the ground and in detached parcels with bare ground between—it is the work of sulphuric acid. On such land plaster is a positive injury.

If clover and tame grasses die out, and are succeeded by wire grass, sorrel or sour dock, it is caused by sulphuric acid. Put on lime and keep off plaster.

The reason why plaster should not be used on land charged with sulphuric acid, is that plaster is composed of lime and sulphur, and applying that is adding more of that with which the land is overcharged. On such land apply lime, which unites with the sulphuric acid, and forms plaster. The lime thus neutralizes the acid, and forms a compound nutriment for vegetation.

The reason why the ground appears so hard, where the earth is charged with sulphuric acid, is, that the stubble has been *eaten up* by the acid.

The sulphuric acid in plaster, applied to land not overcharged with that substance, *decomposes* vegetation, and fits it for nourishing the living plants. When there is an excess of the acid, it eats up the vegetation, both dead and living.—This is the reason why soils overcharged with the acid are always deficient in vegetable matter. And soils free from it, have an excess of vegeteble in a decomposed state.

The presence of this acid is the cause of sorrel and sour dock, and sour grass. The land is literally sour, and nature is trying to throw it from her stomach, through these excresences. The rule, then, if your land has too much sulphuric acid, or *is sour*, give it a good coat of lime; if destitute of acid apply plaster.

Easy Soil.—An auctioneer was selling a lot of land for agricultural purposes. "Gentlemen," said he, "this is the most delightful land. It is the easiest land to cultivate in the state—it is so light—so very light. Mr. Parker, here, will corroberate my statement—he owns the next patch, and he will tell you how easy it is worked. "Yes, gentlemen," said Mr. Parker, "It is very easy to work it, but it's a plaguy sight easier to gather the crop."

For the Farmer and Planter.

Some Obsesvations on Horse Raising, and Incidental Remarks about Mules.

What kind of horses should the farmers of the upper districts of South Carolina raise? To this question, it is presumed different gentlemen will give different answers. I propose, reader, to tell you what I think on the subject, and have each one of you to take what I say, for just so much as each may deem them worth.

Our situation is just suited to the production of just such horses as our necessities require. We need horses to ride, plow, and to do harness and wagon work. Horses best suited to this service, are from 14½ to 15½ hands high, well and compactly built, active and strong, and they must be docile and intelligent, for we often want them to perform all the above named sorts of service alternately, and some times all in the same day. Resolution and quickness are also important qualities. We have but little use for the large, heavy, slow motioned dray horse, or for the larger breeds of wagon and stage horses. And if we did, we had better buy than raise them, for the cheap corn and luxuriant blue grass of Kentucky and Ohio, will always enable them to raise horse beef much cheaper by the pound than we can, and the transportation to our market costs but a trifle. So that they will always be able to under sell us.

We have still less use for the narrow-breasted, impatient, fretful, thin-skinned, delicate race horse. And therefore the raising of full bloods, should be left to gentlemen of wealth, who can afford to indulge fancy. The farmer wants a different horse.

How can the farmer obtain such horses as I have described, or rather alluded to?—He must begin by calculating before he gets a colt, for if his colt is *not right* no after treatment or management can remedy the evil. In the first place, then, take the best mare you can get. See that the form of the animal, the temper, docility, color, beauty, in fact all the requisites you desire, are in the fullest and most perfect combination. It is hard indeed to find a perfect animal, but approximation may be attained. But what is more important, and fortunately more attainable, is perfection in the sire. For one fine horse may get many fine colts in a season, but a mare can bring but one. No matter what the mare is, never put to an inferior horse, for the colt will most probably not pay. All inferior or corse ugly mares should be bred to a Jack, for the mules will be worth what it costs to raise them, and there is no entailment of deformity on posterity. Inferior stalions ought to be perished out, it is not only our interest, but our duty to do so. Our people cannot afford to raise colts to 4 or 5 years for 50 or 75 dollars, and that is as much as a little misshapen, bad tempered, tackey is worth.

I would have a stallion about 15½ hands high; weigh 1050 to 1150 pounds, and formed just so as to give every part of him the highest vitality and power of action. Black Hawk, Morgan Hurter, and Consternation, afford the best examples that now occur to me amongst living horses. and, by the by, I should be pleased to see likenesses of these horses in the Farmer and Planter. But perhaps it would be better for you to publish some of our own horses.* Likenesses can be had cheap now, and the horse who is not worthy to have his likeness published, ought not to be bred from. I believe it would be a good rule to breed from no horse, that was not published, for the public taste would be thus improved by contrasting the appearance of horses, and then if inferior horses were published, it would make their owners ashamed and prevent them from doing mischief. I should be pleased to see the likeness of all the breeding horses in old Pendleton district. The owner of every valuable horse would find it to his interest to put his likeness in your paper.—Mind, if any undertake it, let us have the name of the daguerreotypist and the engraver, that exact likenesses may be insured.

This digression has exhausted my paper and run this article beyond its intended length, and therefore what I intend saying about the management of colts and young horses, must be deferred for a future chapter. A. B. C.

Greenville, S. C., May, 1853.

*This we would do with pleasure and without charge, if the cuts were furnished us.—Eds.

For the Farmer and Planter.

Fencing.

Messrs. Editors:—I have just had the pleasure of reading Mr. Sorsby's very interesting essay on fencing. As results are very different with us here, from those there laid down, I trust you will permit me to state objections that present themselves when perusing the essay in question.

Rail fences cannot be made here for less than double the price estimated. A majority of hill-plantations have very little rail-timber that is easily accessible.

The objections to the use of hedges, I deem by no means valid. True, they will *not* flourish well on poor or thin soil; but when planted in the line of an old fence row, the soil is always sufficiently rich; and however poor, but a slight dressing of of manure suffices for the Cherokee, rose. An ordinary rail fence requires, annually. much more labor to be bestowed on it, than the clipping needed by a hedge. A space of six feet will suffice for a hedge even on the forest line. They need never occupy more space than five feet, with a moderate share of attention. They will grow in any land that will produce corn or cotton, even though pretty wet. They *do* sap the soil to some distance, which is objectionable. The Cherokee rose, nor the Evergreen thorn *(cratægus pyracantha)*, ever throw up suckers. The rose certainly affords a great harbor for vermin; but, if kept clean during the first three years, will rarely be infested with weeds or briars. I can hardly conceive of a rose hedge being so imperfect at bottom as to admit pigs. There are, in this county (Adams) hundreds of miles of Cherokee rose through, or under, or over which no animal whatever could pass, larger than a rabit. I have never known them killed by frost; and but once in the least degree injured.

The Osage orange, I think, from a considerable experience and observation, altogether unfitted for hedging south of Illinois. The plant, like the honey locust, is inclined to make a tree. and thus becomes open and ineffective in a very few years, inspite of pruning, clipping, plashing, &c. It can only be grown, however, from seed, which is costly and uncertain in its growth. For plants grown from the cuttings of the roots will sucker much more than the seedlings even.

The *cratægus pyracantha*, on the other hand, grows as freely as the willow from the cuttings, and makes a close and perfect fence with less cost, and often labor, than any other plant or material with which I am acquainted, and is, moreover, a beautiful object at all times. See Southern Rural Almanac for particulars.

The remarks upon ditch fencing, and board fence, are excellent. Lumber, here, however, is worth $20 to $25 per 1,000, which would render any such fence, for plantation purposes, out of the question.—In wire fences I have but little faith, tho considerable experience. T. A.

Washington, Miss., April, 1853.

The Aleppo Button—A Singular Disease.—The Aleppo button is a singular ulcer which attacks every person born in the city of Aleppo, and every stranger who spends a month there. It can neither be prevented nor cured, and always lasts a year. The inhabitants have it al-

most invariably on the face, either on the cheek, forchead, or tip of the nose, where it often leaves an indellible and disfiguring scar. Strangers, on the contrary, have it on one of the joints, either elbow, knee, wrist, or ancle. So strictly is its visitation confined to the city proper, that in none of the neighboring villages, nor even in the distant suburbs, is it known. Physicians have vainly endeavored to prevent it by innoculation, and are at a loss what cause to ascribe it. We are liable to have it, even after five days' stay, but I hope it will postpone its appearance till after I reach home.—*Bayard Taylor.*

Matches.

Many barbarous nations unacquainted with the methods in use among civillized people for procuring instantaneous fire, obtain it by rubbing dry pieces of hard, against pieces of soft wood. Flint, steel, and tinder, were employed for the same purpose, for centuries, but this age could not be content nor put up with such poor methods of obtaining quick fire. Matches were first made with their ends dipped in sulphur, which were inflamed by dipping them in a bottle containing phosphorous, which was called the "Devil's bottle." The phosphorous bottle was first superceded by coating sulphur matches with the chlorate of potash, and by dipping them into a bottle containing asbestus moistened with sulphuric acid, they quickly inflamed. These matches were again superceded by the lucifer friction match which was inflamed by simple friction without the use of an acid or phosphorous bottle. The inventor of this match is unknown; he was a public benefactor to the human race and deserves a monument. These matches are first dipped in sulphur, and into a camposition of 16 parts of gum arabic, 9 parts phosphorous, 14 parts nitre, 16 parts manganese—by measure, and then all worked up with water. The mixture is made into a thick paste, into which the matches are dipped and then dried in a heated room made safe from contact with fire. Matches can be made without using sulphur, by dipping them into fused stearine instead of the sulphur. They spoil, however, by very little heat, and frequently miss fire. The chlorate of potash has frequently been employed along with phosphorous, and the matches containing this salt, when drawn across a piece of sand paper, crackle with a series of small explosions. They are dangerous matches, and the mixing of the ingredients in a dry state is always attended with danger. Matches are very convenient, and are now an indispensible article in every household. It is not many years since we had to pay a sixpence for a box of matches not half the size of the one now sold for a cent. In Germany and Russia there are some very large lucifer match factories, the operatives in which, are subject to dreadful diseases, caused by the phosphorous. This led an eminent Austrian chemist, Prof. Schrötter, to devote his time to obviate this evil, and at last made the grand discovery of treating phosphorus by heat, so as to bring it into an equally efficient condition for matches, but perfectly safe and innoxious to the operative. His discovery was first exhibited at the World's Fair. A full description of the mode employed to render phosphorous amorphous, is described in the seventh volume, p. 187, Scientific American. Having had some enquiries about matches—the composition they are made of, &c., within a few weeks the above will convey information on the subject to many who are now unacquainted with the same.—*S. American.*

Protection of Manure.

There can be no doubt that the free and constant exposure of manure to the action of the atmosphere, greatly deteriorates and lessens its value; and that providing a protection for it while remaining in the yards, or before its removal to the land to which it is to be applied, we should save sufficient to remuncrate us amply for the cost which such a structure capable of fully subserving this important purpose would necessarily involve. The proper location of sheds intended for this use, is on the side of the barn, in the vicinity of that portion used as a "tie up," in order that the excrements of the animals may be removed to it every morning, and without even a temporary exposure to the air.

The back or rear wall of the structure, should be so formed as to admit of its being opened to facilitate the removal of the contents, and to effect which, with the greatest convenience and dispatch, the entire wall should be suspended on stout hinges, in such a way as to be swung up, and retained in that position till the work of removal is accomplished.

A structure subserving this purpose, and which will last for several years, may be erected for a few dollars, doubtless—yet I would not advise any one to spend half or two-thirds the amount requisite or the construction of a first rate permanent fabric, in putting up a cheap one which will but partially meet the necessities of the case, and be ready for repairs or tumble into ruins, almost as soon as it is up. It should ever be an object with the farmer to do well and thoroughly whatever he attempts. The old adage—"work well done, is twice done," conveys an important lesson, to which it would be well for farmers to attend, and especially in providing those permanent fixtures and conveniences which necessarily involve the expenditure of time and cash. The economy of manure is beginning to be contemplated as a subject of much practical importance by the farming class generally, and we trust the day is rapidly advancing, and is even now by no means distant, when judicious and efficient measures will be adopted universally for the protection of that article upon the assistance of which the farmer relies for the profit of his soil and crops. When it is reflected that in the present condition of our agriculture, little can be accomplished without manure, it will certainly be thought a matter of no trivial or insignificant consequence so to manage and economize the contents of the stercorary as to ensure the availability of all its wealth. With a sufficiency of manure, we may laugh at the sterility of nature: but without it we can virtually establish little or nothing.

In the manure shed the farmer has an assistant of the most valuable kind and which involves but comparitively slight expense.—*N. E. Cultivator.*

For the Farmer and Planter.

Grafting Stone Fruits.

Messrs. Editors:—I recently observed in some of our papers an extract from some Northern journal, to the effect that some Northern Professor had made the discovery that by sundry manipulations and surgical operations the peach tree could be grafted. Will wonders never cease? But yesterday it was the Ericson and the spirit rappings, and now we have this startling announcement. Verily every breeze from the North brings to the ears of us poor benighted souls of the South, some new matter of admiration and amazement.

Backed by such authority, I trust I may now venture the assertion that in this our genial climate, a peach can be grafted without more to do than consists in splitting one stick, and making a wedge on another to fit it. No, that is not quite all either: the whole wound must be

well coated with wax if above ground, or if under, the soil closely packed over it. The entire mystery lies in making a close fit and the total exclusion of the atmosphere. I have grafted many hundreds and have rarely failed except in cases where Surgeon Borer had preceded and produced a coagulum by his operations on the roots. This hindrance out of the way and I would sooner insure success with this tree than the apple or the pear, about which, no one has any difficulty. Under ground is, I believe, rather the surer plan, but then you open a door for the entrance of that same professional with a red head, who will, you may be sure, speedily accept the offer. Success in either way, however, I regard as about as certain as that a grain of corn planted under favorable circumstances, will vegetate and make a plant.

Perhaps it would not be amiss in this connection to allude briefly to the manner in which I was first led to make the experiment of grafting the peach—for experiment it was to me, having always previously heard that no stone fruit could be so propagated:

Some years since, I received from my friend, Maj. JOHN WRIGHT, a bundle of scions and cuttings of various kinds, and among them one of a peach, in praise of which he was very eloquent. I knew well enough what to do with the others, but this staggered me. It was not the season for budding and I did not believe it would take as a cutting, so grafting was the only alternative, and this every body said would not do. I determined at length to give it a trial at all events, rather than throw it away. It looked unpromising enough for a long time; every thing else was growing off finely before it exhibited any sign of life, and I felt so discouraged that I raised my foot a dozen times to kick it out, but withheld the blow, hoping against hope, until at length the lowest bud expanded and I soon had a fine tree to reward me for my forbearance. My friend, who is an amateur, called it the Pendleton or Best-in-the-world peach, and so far as my experience extends, it well deserves the title. He informed me that his tree was obtained from one in the garden of the Hon. R. F. SIMPSON; so you will see that I am indirectly indebted to your firm of the Farmer and Planter both for the possession of this admirable fruit, and for the discovery to which it led me. Subsequent experience has entirely disabused my mind of the prejudice with respect to other stone fruits; I have found them all, cherries and apricots, plums and nectarines, succeed with the greatest facility. They do not at the North, I am informed, take without extra pains being used, and hence the notion that it would prove so with us was as usual, jumped at by our trouble-hating countrymen.

There is another sample from the same land of notions that I find does not hold good here. That scions cut a considerable time previously to being used, succeed better than those freshly taken from the tree. On the contrary scions from the peach tree, when in full bloom and from other trees equally advanced, cut the moment before being used succeed as readily, and in fact grow off more rapidly than any others. This was fairly tested the past season by inserting on one side of the cleft in the limb of a pear tree a scion prepared according to rule, and on the other, one just cut, with its buds ready to expand. The latter at this time has shoots six or eight inches long, whilst the former is just beginning to grow. The condition in which all the others of the same preparation upon the tree, is found to be.

Apropos to both the matters under discussion, comes an experiment just satisfactorily completed. The Best-in-the-world being a very early bloomer, and therefore very liable to be nipped by the frost, I looked about to see if I could not discover some stock in either the peach or plum tribe of a later habit upon which it might be worked with the hope of thereby retarding the period at which its blossoms expanded in the spring. By great good fortune, I discovered what appeared to be just the thing I wanted, in the form of a wild plum tree, which grows to a large size and blooms a fortnight later than any other plum or peach, and I procured a number of seed and soon had plenty of stocks. The season just passed, I cut from the peach scions the terminal buds which plainly showed the tips of the coming leaves, and without delay applied them, both cleft and splice fashion, to the plum stocks. I watched their progress for several days with considerable anxiety, I confess, for here was a complete reversal of the rule that the sap of the stock should be in a more active state than that of the scion. My fears however were soon dissipated, for in a short space of time, they began to grow off vigorously, weeks in advance of the plum trees in the same row. In short the severed members of the peach kept pace with the parent tree,—utterly refusing to fall into the sluggish habits of the family with which it had become connected. This independance, or rather perversity, of character on the part of my favorite, defeated my principal object, but I trust to have secured a foundation for it which will be found proof against the assaults of Dr. Borer.

In conclusion, Messrs. Editors, and before making my bow, you will allow me to make a suggestion that may possibly interest some of your readers. The common red haw bush makes an excellent stock to graft the pear on. I have a considerable number that were so worked last year; many of them made over six feet's growth in the single season, and have fine bushy heads that give fair promise of fruit at an early day.

CRATÆGUS.

Charcoal and Plaster.—Charcoal dust is a powerful absorbent of atmospheric ammonia, and consequently a valuable fertilizer. Powdered charcoal is perhaps the best thing that can be used to absorb unpleasant ordors arising from decaying animal and vegetable matters. A handful of charcoal dust scattred over the vaults of privies, sink-stoups, &c., will immediately correct any unpleasant odors arising therefrom. Plaster of Paris is probably the next best thing for this purpose. It should be used freely in stables, &c., especially during the warm weather. The use of these absorbents not only promotes health, but effects an important saving of valuable fertilizing matters. Rose bushes and other choice shrubs and flowers, in the garden, or in pots, derive great advantage from the application of charcoal to the surface of the earth around them.

Oat Straw.—A writer in the June number of the Farm Journal, gives his experience of the injury of oat straw, when fed to milch cows. He states that in the early part of June his cows ate of the oat straw litter, and, although fresh, their milk immediately failed, and was not restored until the cattle were entirely excluded from the straw. This, we believe, accords with the universal opinion among farmers, of the deleterious effects of this straw upon cows in milk; but it is well enough to mention the fact, in order that, through inattention, others may not suffer from negligently allowing their cattle to feed upon it.—*Ger. Tel.*

One thing is quite clear, that whether fortune be more like Plutus or an angel, it is no use to abuse her; one may as well throw stones at a star.

For Farmer and Planter.

Improvement in Agriculture.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—I am rejoiced to see your list increasing so rapidly, and that there is a fair prospect of remuneration for your labors. Farmers are waking up from the dulness and apathy so long manifested on the subject of agriculture. The day is dawning, and ere long the sun will break forth in meridian splendor. The time I hope will soon roll round, when the questions among farmers will not be, how many bags of cotton to the hand, do you make? But how much corn, wheat, and pork?—But above all, what improvement in your lands, by ditching, fencing, manuring &c.? When these last questions become more interesting to farmers, the quantity of cotton will diminish, and we shall see every thing in a more prosperous condition.—Fat mules, fat cattle, fat hogs &c., down to the very poultry. Generally, you find where there is a large crib well filled, you will find a teaming meat house. Most farmers aim at too much—strike too high—one man cannot perform the labor of two. Neither should a planter expect a full crop from a half worked plant. Would it not be better to manure well, cultivate thoroughly, and plant less? Says one, I approve your theory, but I must practice differently. At present I am in debt—I have not paid for the last lot of negroes, and there is a balance on the tract of land I bought of Mr. ——, so when I get clear of these matters now pressing, I will slip on the harness and travel your road. "I know its right," but really, sir, I cannot change now. Alas! poor man; I fear he will always have some excuse—always some land or negroes to pay for, till his lands are impoverished, and he compelled to leave the land of his fathers with all his youthful associations, and cast his lot among strangers to be miserable his few remaining days. Wake up brother planters, though our expectaions are some times blasted, all things considered we have bright prospects ahead. A healthy climate—a good subsoil—while we have within our reach the materials for making our lands rich—agricultural papers to instruct—the experiments of all Europe to look at, while chemistry with a progressive march is developing the natural resources of our country. W.

Winsboro, S. C., May, 1853.

The Free Martin.—This is the name given to a twin cow-calf, born with a bull-calf.—It is stated that generally there is such defect in the development of the organs of generation that the animal is barren. This is not owing as many imagine, to an admixture of developed organs of two sexes, constituting the monster called an hermaphrodite, but by the arrest of development at an early stage of the uterine life to malformation. In the *Journal of Agriculture* we find a statement from Hon. John W. Lincoln of Worcester, of observations made by him on two animals of this kind. One was a calf from his own herd, the other was purchased with a view to experiment. The one from his own herd became in calf, and this spring had a fine calf and promises to become a "first rate cow." The other heifer did not become in calf, not promising very much, and in reducing the number of his herd last fall, she was sold for the slaughter-house.—It probably yet remains to be proved whether these heifers would really be less likely to breed than others. A series of experiments would be very desirable to settle this question.

[*Granite Farmer.*

For the Farmer and Planter.

The American Farmer--His Political Position Rights and Privileges.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—If there be one class of society more valuable than another—or one on whose prosperity the general welfare depend more than another—or whose occupation more than any other tends to produce independence of mind, promote the highest, and unite the most numerons blessings of life, it is that of the farmer.

In taking up the occupation and following the pursuit of our great progenitor, that of cultivationg the mighty garden of the earth, we combine health of body, ease and comfort of circumstances, virtuous habits of life, cheerfulness, contentment and repose of mind. For the farmer, the primrose and the violet shed their balmy fragrance—for him, the lark carols its cheering lays. Such are the enjoyments, such the delightful accompaniaments of the farmer in a natural, healthy and unmolested state.

But is this the condition of the British farmer? To this inquiry what reply makes the English, the Scotch or the Irish farmer? He answers with a sigh or a groan, as opposite to this blissful condition of life as darkness from light—as bitter from sweet, and as far asunder from prosperity and happiness as is the equator from the pole. The farmer's rent is so regulated as at best to leave him but a bare subsitance, and this not unfrequently after having involved him in an irretrievable arrear of rent, unless ultimately liquidated by the sale of his stock. Thus is his vassalage sealed, and for the remainder of his life he has lost his free-agency, both in action and expression; his will in all cases is ridden or checked by another. The title of "a free-born Britton" to him, is a mere fiction, and he is obliged to restrain his thoughts, nor dare he even take in a newspaper entertaining sentiments of a different cast to those entertained by his aristocratical lord—no provision is in store for old age. Oh, ye English fanatics, who have so much false sympathy for a class of people whose only blessing is in having been removed to a christian land, where they are well fed, clothed and cared for in sickness and in health. Untill this much can be said of the white peasants of England, let us have less of English or Northern sympathy, by Mrs. Stowe, the Dutchess of Southerland, and the Exeter Hall philanthropists, for a part of the African race—the only happy part of that nation.

It is said by some that all the farmers cannot be educated. There are but few who are not competent to make greater or less progress in the attainment of practical knewledge, if they are not oppressed by bad government, and as the farmer's avocation and pecuniary circumstances do not admit of his acquiring knowledge by entering much into society, he must enlarge his knowledge by reading. And as his leisure time is short, and conseqently extremely precious to him, he must read those publications which gives him the most and best information, in the least time, how to better his condition in this world, and secure to him a blissful inheritance in the world to come. A great many think the farmer ought not to meddle with politics. I think differently.—They had as well say to me that I do not need what I make, as to say I ought not to know how to secure what I have made, be it either life or liberty. I say both mind your individual business, and also concern yourselves with politics, do the one and leave not the other undone.

To know how to protect the fruits of your industry and to make proper application thereof, is an imperitive duty you owe to yourselves, your wives and your children. The most valuable knowledge for our attainment next to that of securing our eternal happiness, and obtaining a comfortable subsistance while we are on earth, is the knowledge of securing our lives and subrtance unmolested. This it concerns every man to do, and the knowledge how to do it, is neither more nor less than what is termed political knowledge.

On so important a subject, it concerns

every man to exercise his best reason, and not to be a mere passive spectator of what onother man officiously and unasked presumes to do for him, in the matter of his general government.

Let me refer those gentlemen who think that farmers ought not to take an interest in politics because they cannot use a few latin and French phrases, to the present condition of the English farmers, where he will have a good mirror to reflect his judgment. I never thought it a good mark of talent, to hear a learned man speak disrespectfully of weakness. Why should the hand speak with contempt of the foot, might not the head with equal propriety speak slightly of the hands —a wise head will not. The farmers are the majority of every nation, or properly what is called *the* people—the voice of the people is the voice of God. Thunder may be said to be the voice of God, yet thunder is but noise, it is the lightning that accompanies it that makes it awfully effective. I have raised my thunder in behalf of my brother farmers.

W. D. A. D.

Laurence, May, 1853.

Crops, &c., in Miss.

For the Farmer and Planter.

Messrs. Editors:—Enclosed you will find a gold $1 to pay for my paper for the present year, two numbers of which have come to hand. I was much pleased with your paper last year, and still more so with the present issue, as they exhibit a pretty dress, and much more able and useful matter, especially on the subject of fertilizers and farm economy. The system of grain culture in your State, as noticed in your correspondence, is somewhat different from that used here in our black prairie and slough lands. We agree, however, in not hilling up the corn, always endeavoring to have it as flat as convenient. As to cotton culture, I think your contributors preserve too great silence, as I have noticed but few articles on that subject in your paper. Can't you spur up some of your South Carolina Planters to give us a few items of their mode of cultivating that plant, as an exchange of views would no doubt benefit us materially.

The spring here was very backward, and many are wofully behind in getting their seed in, caused by frequent and heavy rains. Corn looks well, and is well grown for the time of year. Wheat crops as far as I have been able to learn is unpromising. Gardens are ahead of every thing. especially in the Irish potato line; and fruit, there will be no end to it, unless the rot effects it in the months of July and August, which is only common here n wet years. O. H. M.

Noxubee Co., Miss., May, 1853.

Remarks.—We take the liberty of publishing the above letter from a subscriber in Mississippi, hoping by so doing to draw out something from our planters on the subject of cotton culture, for we know we have many subscribers who, if they would but remove their light from under the bushel, might astonish even our Mississippi friends. The best informed cultivators in our State (book farmers we mean) are many of them we think leaving off the old and very improper practice of hilling corn. There is, with us, no doubt but the flat culture is best every where, especially where thorough draining of the land has been attended to. Our Spring has also been backword, and we are generally much behind hand with our crops.—Eds. F. & P.

The Rhubarb Plant Dangerous.

The Cultivator for August says that the fourteenth number of Braithwaite's Retrospect of Practical Medicine and Surgery, contains an article on the influence of rhubarb plant in producing gravel, which is calculated to alarm those who indulge in the pies and tarts made of this palateable plant. It seems that it furnishes the material of one of the most painful and dangerous diseases to which the human system is subject.

The subject of the article is briefly this: "The young stalks of the rhubarb contains oxalic acid, and hard water contains lime; and consequently, those who eat articles of food made of the plant, and drink such water, are introducing into their system, the constituent ingredients of the mulbury calculus, which is an oxalate of lime; if they are dyspeptic, and unable to digest the acid, are very likely indeed to to incur the pain and exceeding peril of a real concretion of that kind.—The oxalate was found in three or four, after eating the rhubarb.

This, it must be admitted, is rather alarming. The mulbury calculus is the most painful form of the concretions of the kidneys and bladder. The rhubarb plant has come into extensive use, and is generally considered a very wholesome article of diet. If the danger of using it, is as represented in the Retrospect, it should be universally known. There would seem to be reason to infer that the danger is not confined to those who use limestone water, for the acid will probably combine with other bases as well as with lime. The presence of oxalic acid in the plant, perceptible to the taste, would lead one to conclude, *a priori*, that the ascribed effect would result from its use, whenever it is not decomposed by the stomach, which seems to be the case in the greater proportion of instances; and the experiments leave little room to doubt its agency in the production of oxate gravel in the urine.—*Ex.*

Selection of Pumpkin Seeds.

Some years since, in conversation with a learned Scotchman, upon the subject of raising pumpkins, he enquired of me, "do you always raise abundance of pumpkins from an abundant growth of vines, or only occasionally?" My reply was, that I had ever in my experience found the fruit to be very uncertain, however excellent the vines might be. Said he, "save the right kind of seeds." This was the first time that I ever had an intimation that, full sized, ripe, rich pumpkins, there was a differance in the seed; I therefore courteously asked him to explain his meaning. He replied, "save seed only from the female species." Here again I was at fault, and besought that he would give me further directions by which I might err no more. He commenced by saying, "that one accustomed, can generally tell by their general appearance; but the most distinguished feature is at the blossom end, the mark of the blossom being from twice to four times as large on the females as on the males." Since learning the above, I have selected seed according to his directions, and for ten years past have never failed of raising pumpkins when I could obtain a luxuriant growth of vines.—*S. N. Hawkes, in Wisconsin and Iowa Farmer.*

The True System of Farming.

Trying to do too much is a common error into which the farmer often falls. His great eagerness in striving to be rich, is doubtless the cause of his error. He is ambitious and energetic, and forms his plans on a large scale, too often, perhaps without counting the cost. He buys a large farm and wants to be called a "large farmer," without understanding or considering the true elements that constitute a real farmer. He fancies the greatness of that profession, as is too often the common estimate, to be in proportion to the number of acres. not to say cultivated, but embraced within the boundaries of his domain. The fact is now being spread abaoad, that a large farm does not make a man either rich, contented or happy, but on the contrary, the reverse of all these, unless well tilled, when his labor

is rewarded by ample crops and fair success in the various departments in which he is engaged. No farmer can realize the full benefits of his profession without adopting a thorough system of culture. His success commensurate to his wishes, always depends on the manner in which he prepares his grounds, plants his seed, and rears his stock. Neither of these departments, which may be considered the cardinal ones of his profession, will take care of themselves. The soil may be rich, but it needs culture. His seed may be sown, but it must be in due time, and always on soil well prepared and of a suitable quality for the production of the crop desired. His stock must be constantly cared for—it derives its thrift from the soil, and sends again to that soil the sustenance it requires; but this not done in a loose or hap-hazard way. The farmer's care is required, and all his better judgment must be exercised in keeping up this system of reciprocal benefits that may be realized by every intelligent and industrious farmer.

Thorough cultivation and systematic attention to all parts of his business is indispensable to a good degree of success.—The very corner stone to this whole system of farming, is to do what you do thoroughly—nature will not be cheated, and never gives full returns to the half way work that is practiced by vastly too many calling themselves farmers. If the land has been worn, the extent of that exhaustion and the food required, must be first considered. When ascertained, the full measure of these requirements must be given, to bring out full returns. If the farmer has but a small stock, and consequently but a small amount of manure to replenish his land, it is obvious that but a small farm can be supplied with it; and good judgement at once dictates that to cultivate properly a large farm, artificial fertilizers must be used if good crops are obtained. And so with the labor, two men cannot suitably till one hundred acres of land, when the labor of two men and perhaps four might be profitably employed on seventy-five acres.

This is the great error in farming. Two men strive to do what four can hardly do, and thus thousands of acres are run over, half tilled, and producing half crops.—The land is run over till worn out, sustaining year after year the unnatural tax, till its energies are entirely exhausted and it fails even to yield even a feeble crop, because its life is worn out. Much of the soil in Virginia and other southern states is a type of this. Thousands of acres are lying entirely useless and exhausted, and will ever remain so, till the first elements of its power are returned to it. This process is fast going on in many of the *western states*. The soil is treated like an inexhaustible mine; the tillers crying give, give, give! till in a few years it will have nothing to give. The host of the west is, large farms and large fields of grain; plow, sow, and reap, is the business of western farmers, drawing out the very life of the soil, and sending away in the heavy exports that are constantly going onward, without returning to the soil the food it requires to make it productive.

The light that is being spread abroad on this subject, is beginning to correct this practice to some extent, but in most instances very little is returned to the soil to keep it alive, till after several years of continual cropping, it manifests signs of exhaustion and ultimate barrenness. When tillers of the soil understand their true interests, they will cultivate no more land than they can do well. Fifty acres of land for tillage, brought to a high state of cultivation, pays better than one hundred run over in the way that many do.—*Jefferson Farmer.*

The First Saw Mill.—The old practice in making boards, was to split up the logs with wedges; and, inconvenient as the practice was, it was no easy matter to persuade the world that the thing could be done in any better way. Saw Mills were first used in Europe in the fifteenth century; but so lately as 1555, an English embassador, having seen a Saw Mill in France, thought it a novelty which deserved a particular description. It is amusing to see how the aversion to labor saving machinery has already agitated England.

The first Saw Mill was established by a Dutchman, in 1663; but the public outcry against the fangled machine was so violent that the proprietor was forced to decamp with more expedition than ever did a stumpy-legged Dutchman, before. The evil was thus imprudently kept out of England for several years, or rather generations; but in 1768 an unlucky timber merchant, hoping that the public would be less watchful of its own interest, made a rash attempt to construct another mill. The guardians of the public welfare, however, were on the alert, and a conscientious mob at once collected and pulled the mill to pieces. Such patriotic spirit could not always last, and Mills are used in England as in other countries.

Catch not too soon at an offence or give way too easy to anger.

From the Southern Cultivator.

Topping Cotton.

Messrs. Editors:—Having again tried the experiment of topping cotton, I herewith give you the result of the same for the Cultivator. On the first of August I measured off one acre of land of the same quality, and the stand as near the same as I could select on the plantation. I topped, this year, two rows, and skipped two throughout the acre, and the result is as follows—

Topped rows of seed cotton,..513 lbs.
Rows not topped,.....462 "

In favor of topping,.....51 lbs.

You will see that I have made money this year by the operation, as it only took three days to top my crop, and I have made by it, 36,720 pounds of seed cotton. I will, for the satisfaction of others, try the experiment for three years to come, if I live, and although the difference may not be so great every year as it has proved to be in the year 1852, I still say that topping cotton in Mississippi is advantageous, wet or dry, and very important in a wet season. I will here say to those who are fearful of causing their cotton to sucker in wet weather from topping, that I have never been able to see, in twenty years' experience in farming, that topped cotton was more subject to sucker than that not topped. Too much rain on cotton planted in rich new land, or land highly manured, will bring out suckers, and as many on that not topped as on the topped; at least, this is the result of my observation in Mississippi, the opinion of others to the contrary notwithstanding.

This being the only piece I shall give you for the Cultivator this year, I will bring forward from the 1st. volume of your journal a valuable recipe for founder—more correctly speaking, a water founder: Bleed the horse from the neck as long as he can stand up; then make him swallow one pint of salt; anoint well around the edges of his hoofs with spirits of turpentine; keep him from drinking too much water, and he will be well, I think, in a few hours.

The above recipe cured a valuable horse for me last spring, after trying nearly every other remedy without success. The six dollars paid for the back numbers of the Cultivator, has saved me a horse worth upwards of $100. E. Jinkins.

Horn Pen. Choctaw Co. Miss., 1853.

Purge for a horse—Aloes, 1 ounce; jalap, two or three drachms; oil of cloves, ten drops: made into a ball with honey.

The Farmer and Planter.

PENDLETON, S. C.

Vol. IV., No. 6. : : : : June, 1853.

☞ TheRev, Thomas Dawson, of Beaufort District, is appointed an agent of the *Farmer and Planter.*

☞H. P. Douthit, of Alabama, is an authorized agent for the *Farmer & Planter.*

☞ Dr. O S. Bentley, of Atlanta, Ga,, is our authorized Agent for the *Farmer & Planter.*

Stop my Paper.

Yes sir, we will stop your paper at any time you desire, provided that, always and nevertheless, you on your part will not recollect to forget to *pay up all arrearages*, including the volume you have commenced with, and perhaps have taken a third or half the numbers of, which you do us the kindness to return stitched up, torn or scribbled on, so as to render them useless to us, without offering to pay for, even up to the time of discontinuance. And that, too, after having been *notified* before the close of the last volume, *not* to commence with the new volume unless you intended to take and *pay* for it.

It is natural for some men to be mean; they cant help it we suppose—its in the blood of the animal.

To Subscribers and Post Masters.

Will subscribers do us the favor, when ordering a change, to say *from* what and *to* what office the change is to be made.

Post Masters in returning papers not taken out of their office, not unfrequently neglect to state from what office they are returned, but only with the endorsement, and that on the paper instead of the envelope, "Not wanted," "Not taken from the office," or "Stop this paper." This piece of neglect in P. Ms., puts us to much trouble to find out from what office the papers come; for it is impossible for us to know every man's post office on seeing his name only, which we have put on his paper in directing it. We put the name of the post office to which a package of papers is sent, on but one paper, and hence if any other paper happens to be returned, we have the name of the subscriber, but no post office.

To Correspondents.

If friend "Johnathan," of Sleepy Hollow, would write us a sensible article, which we know he is capable of doing, asking information on the subjects embraced in his communication, instead of giving it in the tom-foolery style he has adopted, we would with pleasure publish it, and with more pleasure answer his interrogatories, which we are not quite certain that he desires us to do. We will, however, say to "Johnathan," that he is right in his conclusions to turn his land "upside down" in the fall or winter, and if he will send to Messrs. Sinclair &co. of Baltimore, they can furnish the plough that will do it. even with no more efficient a team than his two "oxes," and if he will follow with two more hitched to "that gofer" he speaks of being "mighty common" in his neighborhood, he will about do the right sort of work to pay him for his trouble, instead of scratching with plows "from 2 to 6 inches long," up and down hill, as seems to be the practice of his Sleepy Hollow neighbors for the only reason that their "dadys" did so. In bringing to the top a portion of the stiff red clay, "Johnathan," which you say underlays your light sandy soil, you will not only improve the texture of your land, but by exposing it a winter to the disintegrating and ameliorating effects of frost and atmosphere, will much enhance its productiveness. As former occupants have taken the cream and left you nothing but the "klabber," which you think is scarcely worth "churnin," you must force your churn dash a little lower and you will find something that will make butter, for they did not churn to the bottom.

As to the "guanay," you might do worse than to use that, being near the rail road, especially if dealers in the article were more honest than we are disposed, from recent developments, to believe some of them to be. But we would by no means discourage you from the use of stable or other manures that you may possibly manufacture at cheaper rates on your farm.—Make all you can; it is the gold dust of the farmer, and should on no account be neglected.—There are many sources of manure on every farm that have not yet been discovered; possibly we might be better employed in searching them out, than in running after the thousand and one puffed "fertilizers" of the day. In addition to stable, hog-pen, barn-yard and other manures to be raked and scraped from every part of your uplands, or the hundreds of loads of muck that you may dig from your branch and creek swamps. Sow green crops: no doubt the cheapest available manure for your land. The cow pea, especially, to be turned in as deep as your two "oxes" can do it, with the plow we have already advised you to procure, either in a green state, or after you have fed the peas off to your hogs, *only*, as they eat nothing but the pea and in gathering them, leave much valuable manure regularly distributed over the land. Shift and rest your land. Plow deep in preparing, and shallow in cultivating, and let those run to Florida who may choose; you may live in a more congenial clime at home.

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We feel much pleasure in acknowledging our obligations to old and untiring friends, as well as to some new recruits, for the amount of original matter that will be found in our fourth volume up to and including the present number, in which we have a fair showing of original contributions. This is as it should be.—Friends of the Farmer and Planter, let it not be said you are less capable or less disposed to write for your own paper, than are the exclusive patrons of other papers, whether south or north.—Let us make a long pull, a strong pull, and a pull altogether, and with an united effort render ourselves deserving, if not already so, the high character given the farmers and planters of our state by our worthy brother of the "Dadeville (Ala.) Banner," in a recent notice of our paper, which see on our outer sheet. But in returning our thanks to old contributors, as well as to new, whose names we are proud to enrol on our list, we would enquire what has become of our old friends, and early correspondents, Dr. M. W. Phillips, Dr. I. S. Whitten, and others we might mention, nearer home, and who we hope will consider themselves alluded to in this enquiry. Your hands are not all paralyzed we are certain, for we yet see your "marks" in other papers—"how have *we* offended" that you have deserted us? "We panse for a reply."

Best in the world Peach.

Major Simpson's absence from home has prevented us laying the communication of our respected correspondent, "Crataegus," before him. We understand from Maj. Wright, however, that the "Best in the world peach" is, as we suspected, the "Bordeaux," which was brought to his residence near old Pendleton some years since, by our old friend the late Samuel Maverick. who is entitled to the credit of introducing into this neighborhood from abroad many other valuable fruits and plants.

We are pleased to see that our correspondent has been so successful in grafting stone fruits, the peach especially, with which we have in a few instances succeeded, but in many more failed. We have with the plum been more successfull, but have considered neither so certain to take as the apple or pear. We have been informed by a friend that he has succeeded best with the peach when the graft was taken, *not* from the previous year's growth, as is common with most grafts, but from wood of two year's growth, that has become fully matured.

Agricultural Society at Greenville C. H.

We see from our Greenville exchanges that a meeting has been held and *another* Agricultural Society organized at that place. We say another, for we believe this is about the third or fourth society that has been established in Greenville within a few years past. We trust this society will be of more permanent duration than its predecessors, and that the district and country 'round about may reap the abundant rich fruits of its labors; and judging from the character of the gentlemen who have interested themselves in getting up the society, we can venture to vouch for its success. We are pleased to see that our old friend, Dr. A. B. Crook, has been elected President of the society. This is as it should be, we think, for if there is any one man, more devoted, than another, of our acquaintance, to the interest and advancement of agriculture and its kindred pursuits, it is Dr

Crook; whose zeal is untiring and unceasing in the good cause. We know that much depends on the exertions of a few, and not unfrequently of a single individual, in keeping up such societies, and some such we are sure will be found among the officers and members of the Greenville agricultural society. Go on, gentlemen. get up reports and addresses on all subjects relating to your time honored occupation—send them to the Farmer and Planter, and we promise you your light shall not be hid under a bushel.

And yet another: A friend, to whom we are under many obligations. writes us from Winnsboro', as follows:

"Our prospects are brightning. Yesterday an *Agricultural Association* was organized in this place, called the *Fairfield Agricultural Society*. The details are not yet carried out, but I think will be on next sale day, (June.) I hope ere long to be able to send you some additions to your list." O. W.

Send them on, friend W.; we dont care how many, for we assure you we need them. We are pleased to hear of your movement in favor of an Agricultural Society. Would that such societies could be gotten up in every district of our state. Then we might expect the agricultural papers of our state to be better sustained than at present. We have worked hard and with but poor compensation for our labors, to advance the agricultural interests of our state and of the whole south, and at times have been almost ready to strike our colors—to "*give up the ship*," but yet we have held out and if our good friends will stick to us, we promise them to continue the good fight against prejudice and ignorance until all opposition has been put down.

Errata.

Owing to indisposition, the proof reading of our last number was badly done, and we regretted to find when too late to correct, that several errors had crept into our friend Broomsedge's communication, which will be obvious enough to the reader.

We also with pleasure, insert the following notice of errors in the article from the pen of Dr. Sorsby, on fencing:

"Messrs. Editors:—In my essay on fencing, published in the "Soil of the South," which you did me the honor to copy into the last number of your Agricultural Journal. several errors occurred, which appeared in the "Farmer and Planter as follows: please notice in your next number—

On page 49, 2nd column, 8th line from the bottom, read "beauty," instead of "locality."—On page 50, 3rd column, 14th line from top. insert "ditch" after "it." In same column, 23rd and 24th lines from top, read "76 cents,', instead of "1,37 cents." In line 26, "$4,00" in place of $4,25." In line 16 from bottom, omit "62 cents."

Your obedient serv't,

B. A. Sorsby.

Goshen Hill. S. C., May 3d, 1853.

Please do send *my paper* sooner, or refund the money. This I would not like you to do, pravided there is any possibility of my getting it sooner, because I like your journal and would hate to part with it, but if I can't get it in time I had rather not have it. Please talk to your *devil* about it, because I think he is in fault.

Respectfully, yours, L. H.

Remarks.—If our friend will lay the "fault" at the door of *Uncle Sam's* "devils" of the the post office department, instead of *ours*. we think he will be "giving the devil his due."—We assure him it is not the fault of our "devil," that his papers are not received as early as are others sent to his district; for all are put up and deposited in the post office at the same time, and we will venture the assertion that there is not a post master in the state more particular or more *punctual* in the performance of his duty than ours; and hence we are quite certain the papers are promptly sent from this office, and furthermore, that the fault must lie somewhere between us and Goshen Hill.

Having been thrown back by the absence of one of our printers, at the commencement of the present volume, we are yet some eight or ten days behind our proper time for issuing. but this will not account for a month's delay, as L. H. complains of. We regret that our friend is thus annoyed, but we can not take all the blame on our shoulders.

Florida.

We are permitted to make the following extract from a letter received by one of our neighbors, from a friend recently removed to the promise land.

We acknowledge the corn: we could not beat the cotton plant at the time received; indeed we could scarcely do it now, (20th of May.) But with all your rich lands and abundant crops of every sort, friend Mc., we guess by the time you shake down your bedstead in a paroxysm of ague next fall, you will wish yourself and family away back in the potato valley above Oconey Station.

Wacahortee Hammock, Fla., March 30, 1853.

Friend S.—I received yours of the 6th, yesterday, and the time of your departure being near at hand, I hasten to reply.—This country has decided advantages over all others. There has been grown in this country 25,00 lbs. sea island cotton per acre. I think however I might safely say for good cotton hammock 15.00 lbs., and good pine land from 700 to 1,000 lbs. per acre. This cotton is worth in the seed, what you get for your cotton in Hamburg. A good many plant tobacco, and make about $250 per acre, but it is a very tedious crop. Sugar cane grows finely. it will make from $75 to $150 per acre. Arrow root does well, but the country is new and the farmer has no way of manufacturing it; I think it might be made a very profitable crop. Rice grows well on the hammock, from 30 to 75 bushels per acre. We have to haul 50 miles to the St. Johns, very good road, but the most of it will be deep sand in a few years. Good hammock lands are ranging from $8 to $15 per acre, pine lands from $1.25 to $5. I am decidedly of opinion that this is a sickly country, but the sickness is not of a dangerous character, mostly chills and fevers. I think it the very country for negroes. I live within 7 miles of two fine orange groves. We can raise any thing here in the shape of flowers. I have peas and beans in bloom, corn knee high, and cotton with 6 leaves, and, as the boy said, still a growing.

The water in this section is much better than you would think. My well is about as good as Capt. J. P. Benson's, at Anderson C. H. You will please show the cotton plant to Maj. Seaborn, and ask him if he can beat it in South Carolina. Yours, &c., Jno. Mc.

Guenon's Discovery Improved and Simplified.

BY JOHN NEFFLIN.

Our thanks are due to Mr. C. B. Rogers, No. 129, Market street, Philadelphia, for a copy of this work of practical importance to the farmer and stock raiser. We have had time to give the work but a cursory examination, nor have we been able in any one instance fully to test the truth of the system. Yet from a few examinations and enquiries, we feel disposed to concur in the views set forth. We select the following remarks on the subject from the New England Cultivator:

"*Treatise on Milch Cows.*—Some years ago a book on the subject of milch cows appeared among us written by a Frenchman by the name of Guenon. It was translated, we think, by Mr. Skinner, late editor of the Plow, Loom and Anvil.—This book proclaimed a theory which was then new to most of us, and to which Mr. Skinner assented. The theory briefly is this, that:

"The hair of the horned cattle, as is well known, grows downwards, only in the milk mirror which begins at the udder, the down-like, delicate, short and *lighter*-colored hair grows upwards; and when the ascending and descending hair meet, they *form an elevated strip, a vortex or whirl.* This whirl is the real frame or border of the milk mirror, and gives it its shape. *This shape is the principal mark of the productiveness of the cow.* One shape

shows a greater productiveness of milk than another."

The work has recently been examined and compiled in a condensed form by John Nefflin, a German farmer, who has had many opportunities of developing the nature and character of Guenon's observations. Prof. Wilkinson, late of Mt. Airy Institute, says he is satisfied that this is the only reliable system by which cows can be selected. The circular of the publisher states that a thorough understanding of the system will enable the farmer or dairyman to determine not only the daily quantity of milk a cow will yield, but how long this yield will continue.—Again, it is susceptible of application to calves three months old, so that the breeder can determine, even at that early age, which promise to become good milkers, and which do not. And again, as the mark can be discerned in bull calves as well as in cows, the important information is secured to the farmer, which enables him to couple such male and female animals as belong to the same class, and thus increase their productiveness for the dairy, to the utmost possible extent. The breeder, by a proper application of the rules, may so improve the character of this stock, as to double its value."

Old Fields.

If you have an old field on your farm, or plantation, that has been lying idle for many years, yielding you nothing, but imposing upon you the payment of state and county taxes, make up your mind to improve it as soon as your corn crop has been set. Choose an auspicious period after a good soaking rain, plough it up 6 or 8 inches deep, harrow and roll it until you have reduced it to a state of fine pulverization, then roll it, and spread thereon, per acre, 10 bushels of lime, or from 20 to 50 of marl, harrow that in and sow upon each acre 1 bushel of buckwheat, harrow and cross harrow it in, then roll. When the buckwheat first comes into bloom, plough it in, spread on each acre the same quantity of lime, or marl, as before, harrow and roll; then sow 3 bushels of peas on each acre; when these first come into bloom, plough them in, roll, hrrrow, and roll, spread 10 bushels of bone-dust per acre, harrow it in, and seed your field to grass, lightly harrow the grass seed in, and roll.

If your object is solely hay, sow timothy seed at the rate of 1½ peck to the acre. If your object should be, *hay* and *pasture*, then sow on each acre

1 bushel of Orchard grass seed,
½ " of Kentucky Blue grass seed.
1 peck of Timothy seed, and
1 bushel of perrennial Rye-grass,—

or if the land be adaped to wheat, from its physical texture, you may seed it to wheat, as also to the above grass seeds. By this latter plan, you may cover all the expense of getting your old field improved and in grass.—*American Farmer.*

Does the Ox ever lose his Cud.

On this question, the *Maine Farmeer* thus replies to a correspondent:

An opinion used to prevail pretty generally among farmers, and there are some yet who think that if animals that chew the cud should accidentally lose the cud from their mouths they would not be able again to raise any more and of course would die, unless a part of another creature's cud should be put into their mouths.

Such people imagined there was some mysterious connection between the pellet of half chewed material in the mouth and the mass of the same substance in the anima'ls stomach, and if that connection were broken off, the animal had no means of restoring it.

This is all a fallacy. Ruminating animals, when sick, cease chewing the cud, on the same principle that a man ceases to eat when he is sick. The stomach and digestive organs lose their action, and there is no appetite for food, or for eating and digesting food in any form. A friend once told us an anecdote, which demonstrates the folly of the idea of any damage arising from an accidental loss of the cud. He had a pair of steer calves given him by his father, which he used to take great delight in training about the barnyard during his leisure hours. One day as one of his calves stood chewing its cud, he came up suddenly and laid hold of it. The calf being frightened, jumped from him, and in its fright dropped its cud upon the ground. He had heard the story that unless another cud should be put into its mouth it would lose the power of raising its cud, and would die. He accordingly bowed up one of the cows in the stall, and waited for it to begin to chew its cud, in order to get a part of it to give the unfortunate calf, but the cow not being disposed to accommodate him immediately, he stepped out to see how the calf got along, when lo, it had laid down and was chewing its cud as comfortably as if nothing had happened. This little occurrence taught him better than to believe the story before told him about any danger from accidental loss of cud.

The Cochin China Mania, &c.

Sir:—Every few years an exaggerative idea of the profit to be gained by, and the essential value of, some particular plant, animal, or mode of culture, seizes on the public mind, and remains there till drawn out by some still more extravagant whim. And among these manias and panaceas few have been more ridiculous than the exaggerated value set upon poultry in general, and the enormous prices at present given for a breed of fowls neither excelling in flavor, hardy, nor beautiful, and in which this folly is exaggerated in valuing the species not for size, early maturity, or egg productiveness (in which they excel), but from slight difference in plumage, shape of comb, and feathered or naked legs, as ridiculous a system as that of valuing rabbits by the length of their ears, or pigeons by the spread of their tails, modes by which their owners ought rather, perhaps, to be valued.

Farmers are not mere "farmers" either of birds or beasts: and, though high prices are given for animals of an improved breed, it is because they possess, or are supposed to possess, some real and intrinsic superiority, and have cost the improvers or importers considerable trouble and expense.

The introduction of new or superior kinds of domestic animals from foreign countries is indeed a matter of much importance and if carried out in a systematic manner, might lead to great benefit to the country, as well as profit to the importer.

Why should Cochin China fowls monopolize all our efforts? And if they are of so much importance, no doubt great numbers may be had from the Cochin Chinese at very low rates, and would turn out a good investment if even half the present quoted prices were obtained in England. It is very likely, however, that the breed may soon degenerate in this country, and thus a constant import be *necessary*, if not profitable.—*London Far. Mag.*

Wire Worms.—According to a statement in the Prairie Farmer, salt is not agreeable to this larvæ. Land infested by thousands was sown in the fall with refuse salt at the rate of three and a half bushels per acre. The next summer very few were seen, and afterwards all gradually disappeared. Worth trying, at least, although the proportion of salt when dissolved in the soil would be only about one fifty-thousandth part.—*Albany Cultivator.*

The Weather and the Crops.

The following on the weather and crops we take from the Newberry Sentinel of the 18th ult. Our crops in the up country as far as we have heard from, are rather backward than otherwise. We are needing rain for the oat crop, especially at this time, 22d April. The nights are cold and we hear much complaint of cotton dying. Some are speaking of plowing up and planting corn on their cotton lands:—Eds. F & P.

The Augusta Chronicle & Sentinel of Saturday 7th inst., says:

The weather is as dry, hot, and dusty as ever! We cannot say a word in praise of it. We are parched--scorched—dried up to mummies, almost. When shall we have a good shower?

The Atlanta Intelligencer of the 5th says:

Field crops and garden vegetables have been suffering considerably for some time past in this vicinity, on account of the continued dry weather. Yesterday, however, the spell was broken, and we were favored with a copious fall of rain.

The Tallahassee Sentinel of the 3d instant, says:

No rain yet (Monday), although some rain tokens are visible in the horrizon.—We think most of the region round about Tallahassee has been without rain for about six weeks.

With a few local exceptions, the papers throughout the great West speak of the growing grain crops as being in the most promising condition, and giving token of an abundant harvest. We have never seen or heard of fewer complaints on this score in any previous season. The Ohio, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin papers all concur in saying that present indications warrant high expectations of the coming crop. From Illinois we have some complaints, but not more than at this time last year.

The Greensboro' (Ala.) Beacon of the 29th ult. says:

The weather has been rather too cool for cotton for the last few days, and quite too dry for the last two or three weeks for corn and cotton to come up well.

The Jefferson (Cass county, Texas) Herald of the 23d ult. says:

We are informed by a gentleman just from Bowie county, that the prospects for crops in that section is disheartening.—Most of the planters last year were late in picking their cotton, and consequently did not commence preparing for planting until after the regular time. They have also had an unusual amount of rain, which has prevented them from work. He says they are not yet done planting corn, and will not finish planting cotton by the first of May.

A letter dated Houston, April 25th, to the Galveston News, says.

The recent rains, while they have done no permanent damage to the roads, have greatly contributed to the growth of vegetation. The pasture on the prairies is now as good as could be desired. We learn from planters who are in from the interior, that the crop is in a most flourishing condition. Planters are very busy in agricultural speculations.

The Galvton News, of the 29th ult., says:

Want of rain is generally complained of and the accounts from the country are very indifferent about the development of the crops; corn and cotton are backward in all sections of the State from which we have heard.

The Victoria (Texas) Advocate, of the 23d ult., says:

The planters express high hopes of good crops, now that every thing, revived by the late rain, is growing with such vigor-our promise.

The San Antonio Ledger, of the 21st ult., says:

On Thursday night last, the citizens of San Antonia and vicinity were visited with a most refreshing and invigorating shower. Vegetation is now growing most luxuriantly.

The Shrieveport Gazette of the 30th ult., says:

Notwithstanding the very backward spring the prospects at present are very fair for good crops both of cotton and corn in this region.

The Jackson Mississippian says, there was a slight frost on the morning of the 18th ult., which resulted in great damage to the cotton crop in that and adjoining counties. The Mississipian understands that many planters have been obliged to plant over again.

We learn from Florida that throughout Alachua, Columbia, and Marion counties, cotton is in an excellent state of forwardness, and bids fair for a heavy crop, the additional ground planted this season warranting the estimate that the product this year will be double that of the last, or about ten thousand bales. The tobacco, so far as transplanted, looks well, particularly in Marion county. The corn is far advanced, and peas and potatoes promise great abundance. The arrow-root which has been set out looks well, and a considerable quantity will be manufactured the ensuing season.

The following letter we have just received from a friend in Mississippi. The insect enclosed is one we have never before seen. The body seems to be about the size and somewhat in the shape of a *flea*; of a light yellow color. with transparent wings. We have no glass of sufficient magnifying power to enable us to describe it more minutely.

"I send you enclosed a few insects that you may see what we have to contend with this spring in getting a stand of cotton. 1st. these insects came from the swamps and woods near and adjacent to our fields. 2d. They breed and grow upon the buckeye and hickory trees. 3d. They made their appearance flying in clouds, on the second day of May, from the woods to our cotton fields, and now, on the 8th of May, may be seen hundreds of acres with scarcely a growing stalk, upon which before grew a beautiful stand, and we know not how long they may continue their ravages, as they seem but slowly to disappear. Many are planting over, and the work of chopping and thinning was almost entirely stopped.

I send you these, as you may hear of their destruction to the cotton plant from other quarters and may be curious to know what manner of insect they are.

Your April No. I have just read, and must say that I am truly pleased with every article it contains.

Truly yours, O. H. Marshall.

Noxubee Co. Miss. 1853.

A ten-acre field, costing fifty dollars per acre, and ditched, manured and improved, at fifty dollars more, so as to give double crops, is much more valuable and profitable than twenty acres unimproved, costing the same money.

Beautiful Thoughts.—God has sent some angels into the world whose office is to refresh the sorrows of the poor, and to lighten the eyes of the disconsolate. And what greater pleasure can we have than that of bringing joy to our brother; that the tongue should be tuned with heavenly accents, and make the weary soul listen for light and ease; and when he perceives that there is such a thing in the world, and in the order of things, as comfort and joy, to begin to break out from the prison of his sorrows, at the door of sighs and tears, and by little and little begin to melt into showers and refreshment--that is glory to the voice, and employment fit for the brightest angel. So I have seen the sun kiss the frozen earth, which was bound up with the images of death, and the cold breath of the north, and the waters break from their enclosures, and melt with joy and run in useful channels; and the flies

do rise from little graves in the walls, and dance a little while in the air, to tell that joy is within, and that the great mother of creatures will open the stock of her new refreshment, become useful to mankind, and sing praises to her Redeemer. So is the heart of sorrowful man under the despair of the grave, and the fetters and chains of sorrow; he blesses God, he blesses thee, and he feels his life returning.

Useful Receips.

The following has been handed us as a remedy for "pale, sickly-looking, dropsyfied children." It is said to have effected wonderful cures. The ingredients are all powerful tonics, and in all probability the medicine may be a good one. An ounce of the rust (oxide) of iron put into the vinegar with the first named articles, and allowed to stand in any vessel, not having lead or lead glazing in it, a few days, instead of the rusty nails and Dutch (iron) oven, with the lid on, would be equally as good:

Receipe.—"As much as you can grasp between the thumb and fore-finger, of each, Seneca snake root, star-root and rue; twice the quantity of black snake root, and a handful of camomile flowers. Put all into a half gallon of good apple vinegar; add one pound of rusty nails. Sit it away in a Dutch oven, with the lid on, for nine days. Strain out and return to the oven. Add one quart of West India rum, and two pounds good sugar; reduce slowly to three pints. Bottle and stop tight. Dose—One table-spoonful three times a day, morning, noon, and night. Eat no fat meat, nor drink sweet milk. Keep out of the rain.

For the Farmer and Planter.

Blackberry Wine.

Messrs. Editors:—As the summer is at hand, I send you a receipt for making wine from the black-berry, as some of your readers might be glad to see it. In case you should think it is worth a place in your paper, you will please publish it.

Receipt.—Take the juice of the black-berry, strain through flannel three times, the third, and last time, strain through a fresh piece of flannel, to get all the sediment out of the juice, then add 2½ lbs. good brown sugar to a gallon of the juice. Bottle and cork up and set it away for four months, and it will be ready for use. Should the wine not suit the taste, add more sugar. Yours, &c. W. S.

Smithville, May, 1853.

For the Farmer and Planter.

To Kill Rats.

Take half a stick of phosphorus (about ½ oz.) and put it in one quart of boiling water; stir in wheat flour until you make a well boiled paste. Then add three table-spoonfulls of brown sugar; three do. table salt; fifty to one hundred drops oil of annis. Use by spreading the paste, or poison, on bacon rhine or bread crust, and cover well with brown sugar, tack it fast to some place where the rats use, and in a few days your rats will all be dead. In making, be sure to have your water boiling at the time you throw the phosporus in, and stir in the flour as soon as possible. Be careful not to have any blaze around the vessel at the time of making it; it is best to make it out of doors. Do not be alarmed at the sparks from the phosphorus, but stir in the flour as quick as possible. This poison will kill any thing that eats it. Care should be had not to let children get hold of the poison, nor let any thing eat of it that you do not want to kill. B. F. W. Goss.

Sheffield, Ga., May, 1853.

From the New England Cultivator.

A Remedy for Burns, &c.

Mr. Editor:—I am exceedingly well pleased with your paper, the N. E. Cultivator. In a late number I noticed a formula for making a suit of clothes *water*-proof. It probably would be well to inform your readers (particularly parents), that cotton goods dipped in water, slightly impregnated with *alum*, will make them *fire*-proof.

You are aware that children's clothes are generally made *of cotton* stuffs, which will ignite instantly. After the clothes are rinsed, dip them in a solution of alum water. Iron them, and they burn as slowly as woolen—try it.

Again—I would advise the use of a one gallon jug, and 1-2 lb. of alum. Dissolve the alum in one gallon of water, fill the jug, and put it away *where it will not freeze.* And should any of your children, or others of your family get burnt, or scalded, if on the feet or hands, pour the liquid into a basin, and put the effected part in—let it be immersed. Instantly the patient will be relieved of pain, and gradually, say in the course of an hour or two, the parts will be cured of the burn; it may then be treated as an ordinary sore. If the face, or any other part of the body, which could not be conveniently placed under water, should be scalded or burnt, it may be applied by wetting napkins with the solution, and laying on the parts affected, removing them every few minutes. If it is applied immediately, say within a few minutes, the cure in two hours will be perfect. My father once was badly burnt by a gallon of alcohol which he was boiling, taking fire.—This remedy was applied, and the only pain he suffered after the first napkin was put on, was in taking off the dry ones to put on the others.

I once badly scorched my hand by extinguishing with it a piece of cotton cloth. I poured the solution in a basin, put my hand under the surface, and felt no more pain than you and I would feel in taking a glass of old L. P. In two hours after, I took out my hand, and without a mark of the fire on it. No doubt the above remedy might be useful to many of your readers. Yours, &c., B.

Catching Flies.—The Prairie Farmer tells how they catch flies in England. It is done by "fly papers," and the process is called "fly torture," on account of the manner in which the insects have their feet fastened in the "*stocks.*" The article used is rosin and sweet oil mixed, and spread over the surface of a newspaper, and then slightly sprinkled with sugar dust. The moment the fly puts down his foot he is fast. They are thus caught with great rapidity. The "torture" appears to consist in a want of liberty to go where they please.

Cure for Diarrhœa.—At the request of many readers, we publish the receipt so generally known and appreciated since the summer of 1843, as the "Sun's Remedy," for bowel complaints, incidental to the summer season. To those who are not already aware of the merit of this remedy, we may say that no other prescription was so successful during the cholera season, in checking the dreadful disease, when used promptly on the appearance of the first symptoms. We advise our readers to preserve the receipe.

Take equal parts of the tincture of laudanum, tincture of cayenne pepper, treble strength, tincture of rhubarb, essence of peppermint, treble strength, spirits of camphor, mix in a bottle; dose from five to thirty drops, according to the violence of the symptoms. To be repeated every ten or fifteen minutes, if needed, until relief is obtained.

Good Cement.

Take some common lime and mix it with a quantity of tar—just enough to make a tough dough. Use it quick, because it becomes hard in a few moments, and will never soak or crumble. This is a first rate kind of cement for the purpose of making swine troughs, feed boxes, eave-troughs, and many other things.